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ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. By its resolution 34/180 of 18 December 1979, the General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. In its subsequent resolutions 35/140, 36/131, 37/64, 38/109, 39/130, 40/39, 41/108, 42/60, 42/62, 43/100, 44/73, 45/124 and 47/94, the Assembly urged States that had not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to do so as soon as possible and requested the Secretary-General to report on the status of the Convention. In its resolution 45/124 of 14 December 1990, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit this report annually. In accordance with those resolutions, the Secretary-General has submitted at each session of the Assembly a report on the status of the Convention (A/35/428, A/36/295 and Add.1, A/37/349 and Add.1, A/38/378, A/39/486, A/40/623, A/41/608 and Add.1, A/42/627, A/43/605, A/44/457, A/45/426, A/46/462, A/47/368 and A/48/354).

2. In its resolution 47/94 of 16 December 1992, the General Assembly repeated its request for the annual submission of the report on the status of the Convention. The Assembly further requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its forty-ninth session a report on the implementation of that resolution and to make the report available to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-ninth session.

3. By its resolution 1994/7 of 21 July 1994, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session a report on the working methods of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and its capacity to fulfil its mandate effectively, including a comparison with the working situation of other treaty bodies. It also requested the General Assembly, in the light of the present report, to review the Committee's working situation and, in this context, also to consider the possibility of amending article 20 of the Convention to allow for sufficient meeting time for the Committee.

II. STATUS OF THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

4. The Convention was opened for signature in New York on 1 March 1980 and, in accordance with its article 27, entered into force on 3 September 1981.

5. As at 1 August 1994, 134 States had become parties to the Convention, 88 States had ratified it, 40 States had acceded and 6 States had succeeded to it. In addition, seven States had signed it without yet ratifying it. Since the last progress report, Albania, Armenia, the Bahamas, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lithuania, the Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia have become parties to the Convention. The Bahamas acceded with reservations. No reservations to the Convention were withdrawn during the reporting period. The Government of Finland objected to the reservations made by the Government of Maldives upon accession. The Government of the Netherlands objected to the reservations and declarations made by the Governments of India, Morocco and Maldives upon ratification or accession. The complete list of States that have signed and ratified, acceded or succeeded to the Convention, as

well as the dates of their signatures and the dates of receipt of the instruments of ratification, accession or succession, is contained in annex I to the present report. Reservations made upon ratification or accession are contained in annex II, and objections to the application of the Convention are contained in annex III to the present report.

III. THE COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN: WORKING METHODS AND CAPACITY TO FULFIL ITS MANDATE

6. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women shares many similarities in its working methods with other human rights treaty monitoring bodies. There are, however, a number of key differences. Table 1 summarizes the similarities and differences between the Committee and the other five human rights treaty bodies.

7. It should be noted that many of the provisions in the Convention, which cover the full range of issues relating to discrimination against women and the impairment of women's civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, also fall within the mandates of the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

8. The monitoring of compliance with the Convention through the consideration of reports submitted by States parties remains the central activity and object of concern of the Committee. In that sense the mandate of the Committee is the same as that of other human rights treaty bodies.

9. The mandate of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women under article 21 of the Convention includes the drafting of suggestions and general recommendations based on the examination of reports and information received from States parties. These have assumed increasing importance in its work.

10. In addition, the Committee now contributes to international conferences that bear on the status and advancement of women. On request it has forwarded its views on specific issues to other human rights bodies such as the Commission on Human Rights. In the light of the objectives expressed in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993, 1/ such contributions and involvement can be expected to increase in the future.

11. One of the other human rights treaty bodies meets alternately at Geneva and in New York. Under the provisions of article 20, the Committee normally meets at United Nations Headquarters or at any other convenient place as determined by the Committee. Historically, the meetings alternated between New York and Vienna, where the secretariat of the Committee was located. However, since the Committee's secretariat has been transferred to New York, all meetings are expected normally to be held there.

12. As of 1 August 1994, there were 134 States parties to the Convention. The number of ratifications to the other human rights treaties as of 30 June 1994

stood as follows: the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 139; the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 127; the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 129; the Convention against Torture, 82; and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, 161.

A. Consideration of reports of States parties

Meeting time

13. Unlike other human rights instruments, article 20 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women contains a limitation on the allowed meeting time. It states that the Committee "shall normally meet for a period of not more than two weeks annually in order to consider the reports submitted" by States parties. This time-limit has proved to be increasingly inadequate, as evidenced by the backlog of reports, to be detailed below, which have been submitted as required under article 18 and which await consideration. As a result, the Economic and Social Council in resolution 1992/17 recommended that three weeks be allocated until the backlog in reports had been eliminated. The General Assembly in its resolution 47/94 supported the Committee's request for additional meeting time and requested an extension of the sessions in 1993 and 1994. In spite of this, a considerable backlog remains.

14. Although the Committee has increased the scope of its activities, the Convention foresees no assignments beyond the consideration of reports of States parties and the drafting of suggestions and general recommendations based on this review. The Committee normally allocates some meeting time during the sessions for the drafting and consideration of suggestions and general recommendations, discussion of procedural matters and working methods, and contributions to international conferences and events relevant to its work. These discussions take place in two standing working groups whose findings are in the end presented to the plenary meetings.

15. The other human rights treaty bodies have longer and more flexible meeting schedules:

(a) The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination meets twice a year for sessions of two weeks in duration;

(b) The Human Rights Committee is authorized to meet for three sessions of three weeks duration each year. An additional three weeks is allotted for working groups;

(c) The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights ordinarily should meet once each year for three weeks, in addition to a pre-sessional working group of one week's duration. However, it currently meets for 2 three-week sessions per year, as a result of the decisions by the Economic and Social Council to authorize extraordinary sessions for 1993 2/ and 1994. 3/ This increase was authorized to permit the Committee to deal with the backlog of reports. In its decision regarding the 1994 session, the Council also

authorized a special three-day meeting of the Committee's pre-sessional working group in order to prepare for the consideration of States parties reports;

(d) The Committee against Torture meets twice a year for two week sessions;

(e) The Committee on the Rights of the Child currently meets for two regular sessions of three-weeks' duration per year, with each session being preceded by a one-week working group. A special three-week session plus an additional week-long pre-session working group were authorized for 1994 by the General Assembly following a request by the Committee in its fourth session for additional meeting time to deal with the anticipated avalanche of reports. 4/ The Committee has requested the authorization of the General Assembly to hold three regular sessions from 1995 onwards. 5/ Prior to considering any reports of States parties, the Committee spent 2 three-week sessions discussing general matters such as working methods. It also devotes considerable time each session to thematic reports, matters of technical assistance and the methods of work of the Committee.

Number of reports of States parties received and considered

16. Following the initial report which is due one year after ratification, States parties are required under the Convention to submit periodic reports every four years. Following their initial reports, the reporting periodicity under the other treaties is as follows: every two years under the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; every four years under the Convention against Torture; and every five years under the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

17. From 1982 up to 30 June 1994, 145 reports were received by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women since 1982. Table 2 shows the number of reports received, considered and pending consideration. The number submitted to the other treaty bodies is as follows: the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 241 since 1977; the Human Rights Committee, 316 since 1977; the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 739 since 1969; the Committee against Torture, 67 since 1988; and the Committee on the Rights of the Child, 41 since 1992.

18. Since its establishment in 1981, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women has held 13 sessions in which it reviewed 69 initial reports of States parties, 35 second periodic reports, 9 third periodic reports, 4 combined first and second periodic reports and 3 combined second and third periodic reports for a total of 120 reports. In addition, it considered two reports on an exceptional basis. At its thirteenth session, in 1994, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women considered 16 reports in three weeks; 12 reports are presently scheduled for the upcoming fourteenth session. In 1993, the Committee considered 15 reports in three weeks. In 1992, 11 reports were reviewed in two weeks, compared with 11 in 1991 and 12 in 1990.

(a) The Committee on the Rights of the Child by comparison has dealt with an average of six country reports at each three-week session since it began considering reports in 1993;

(b) The Human Rights Committee typically considers 4 to 5 reports per session or between 13 and 14 reports over a period of nine weeks each year;

(c) The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights hears five to six global reports in a three-week session;

(d) The Committee against Torture has considered an average of 12 reports in 4 weeks, or 6 per two-week session, each year since it began hearing reports;

(e) Over the past 10 years, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination has heard an average of 29 reports per year in the space of six weeks.

19. The relatively high number of ratifications leads inevitably to an increase in the number of reports to be considered. However, the total number of reports received has remained relatively constant, indicating that the degree of compliance with reporting obligations is declining. It was suggested by the Secretariat to the Committee that the delay in considering reports, once submitted, was a factor in non-compliance. 6/ In 1987, 19 reports of States parties were submitted to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women under article 18; in 1993, the number was 12 and as of 30 June 1994 6 reports had been received.

20. In addition, like other treaty bodies, the Committee has begun to ask for reports on an exceptional basis. For example, like the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Human Rights Committee, the Committee, being concerned about the alleged violations of human rights inflicted upon women in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, requested during its twelfth session that the States of the territory of the former Yugoslavia submit a report on an exceptional basis. 7/ Those reports were presented and considered during the Committee's thirteenth session. It may be expected, in the light of the Committee's commitment to look into similar grave violations of rights being experienced by women in any part of the world, that it will request special reports in the future whenever events in States parties to the Convention give rise to concern regarding the well-being, status or advancement of women and the Committee wishes to act on an ad hoc basis.

Time allocated per report

21. One of the most striking disparities in the working conditions of the treaty bodies lies in the amount of time available for the consideration of reports of States parties. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women allots one and a half three-hour meetings for the initial report of a State party and only 1 three-hour meeting for subsequent periodic reports. The time allocation does not increase even when the Committee is considering combined reports, which has become an increasingly frequent practice; initial and second periodic reports are considered in one and a half meetings and second and subsequent periodic reports are considered in one meeting. During the

thirteenth session, the Committee observed that the number of reports considered at each session was much too high for the allotted time and was much greater than that considered by other treaty bodies.

(a) By comparison, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination devotes two three-hour meetings to each report;

(b) The Human Rights Committee allots at least three full meetings per country report and two meetings for initial reports;

(c) This time-frame is in line with the practice of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which devotes 1 three-hour meeting to reports dealing with specified articles of the Covenant, and 3 three-hour meetings when considering "global" or comprehensive reports from State parties;

(d) The Committee against Torture normally spends 2 three-hour meetings on each report;

(e) The Committee on the Rights of the Child allots 3 three-hour meetings for each report.

22. It should be noted that both the Committee against Torture and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination are limited in their mandates relative to the other treaty bodies, as the Conventions which they monitor focus on one particular human rights issue rather than an entire range of concerns. This lessens the time required for each inquiry they conduct. Therefore, when considering the amount of time each treaty body has at its disposal to spend per report, the more appropriate comparisons are between the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the bodies monitoring treaties that are global in scope, that is, the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Committee on the Rights of the Child. Notwithstanding, even for initial reports the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women spends less time per report than the Committee against Torture or the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

23. The Convention includes a large number of issues that also fall within the mandates of the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. In addition, the Committee's reporting guidelines have become more detailed and precise in recent years in an effort to improve the quality of reports and facilitate the effective enjoyment of the rights under the Convention among States parties. The allotted time in many cases borders on being simply inadequate to permit the Committee to probe policies, issues and areas that would permit it to gain access to the real advancement of women in many of these countries.

24. The consequence of this report presentation schedule is that the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women is seriously constrained in its ability to inquire into the situation of women. In its report on the thirteenth session, the Committee observed that its work programme had already reached the level at which the expected quality of results could no longer be ensured. 8/ At the second meeting of the chairpersons of treaty bodies, held in

1988, it was noted that a thorough examination of a report and a genuinely constructive dialogue with a State party required at least two meetings (A/44/98, para. 40). With less time, the principle of constructive dialogue threatens to become dangerously superficial. Under these circumstances, reporting risks becoming a strictly pro forma exercise in which States parties escape both the searching scrutiny of the Committee and the opportunity to benefit from more extensive dialogue. The result can only be the ultimate weakening of the Convention as an instrument and catalyst for the protection of women's human rights and a potential undermining or discrediting of the existing treaty regime.

Backlog of reports

25. As of 30 June 1994, the Committee had received but not yet considered 33 reports, one third of which were combined reports, comprising either initial and second, second and third or initial, second and third reports. While the actual number of outstanding reports has been even higher at certain points in the past, the backlog total actually comprises 46 distinct reporting obligations. The current number results from the practice of allowing combined reports, the first of which were considered at the eleventh session.

26. As at 1 June 1994, reports had been awaiting consideration by the Committee from between 1 and 52 months, or on average more than 20 months. By the time the fourteenth session is convened in January 1995, the earliest point at which any report can now be considered, the upper limit will be 59 months, or nearly five years. Eight reports date from 1991 or earlier, 7 reports from 1992, 12 from 1993 and 6 from 1994. In contrast, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination expects to have only three reports awaiting consideration at the end of its next session, in August 1994.

27. In 1985, at the fourth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the time lapse between receipt and consideration of reports averaged 18 months. In 1990, at the ninth session, the time lapse was 27 months. At the twelfth session, the time lapse 34 months, or nearly three years. At the thirteenth session, with the exception of special reports from the States of the territory of the former Yugoslavia, States parties waited on average 29 months to have their reports heard. 9/ By the fourteenth session, the average delay will be 38 months.

28. As is evident from these figures, the general trend is towards longer and longer delays. Were there to be substantially greater compliance by States parties with the actual reporting obligations under the Convention, the burden on the Committee would be greater and, under the present time constraints, the delay would be dramatically worse.

29. A lengthy time lapse between submission and consideration obviously jeopardizes the entire reporting procedure, as it lessens the validity of the information received and at times renders both empirical and policy information completely outdated and inapplicable. It increases the possibility that those compiling the report will neither be available to respond to or benefit from the observations of the Committee nor remain responsible for implementing the Convention. Supplementary reports have frequently been required to reflect

changes in the situation since the original report. This both increases the burden of reporting on States parties and places an increased strain on secretariat resources, as additional time is required to process and analyse the reports and additional translation services are needed.

30. A central purpose of periodic reports is to assess any progress or deterioration in the status of women and the effect of the Convention in furthering the advancement of women. Where periodic or initial and periodic reports are combined, or where additional reports become needed because the original reports have become obsolete in important respects, such an assessment becomes impossible and an important goal of the reporting process is frustrated.

31. Finally, as noted earlier, the long delay constitutes a disincentive to reporting to the very States parties that are complying with their obligations under the Convention, as well as to States that are overdue.

Overdue reports

32. As at 1 June 1994 there were 38 initial reports, 39 second periodic reports and 40 third periodic reports due but not yet received from States parties for a total of 117 reports overdue. The delay in reporting in other treaty bodies stands as follows.

(a) For the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 392 reports 10/ formally outstanding. However, combined reports are accepted by the Committee and it is now actually waiting for reports from about 80 States parties;

(b) For the Human Rights Committee, 20 initial, 23 second periodic, 37 third periodic and 13 fourth periodic reports for a total of 93 reports are overdue;

(c) The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights currently has 105 reports outstanding;

(d) For the Committee against Torture, 23 initial and 23 periodic reports are overdue;

(e) For the Committee on the Rignts of the Child, 80 initial reports are outstanding.

33. Because of the problem of seriously overdue reports, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has begun to schedule for consideration the situation in States parties that have consistently failed to report or whose reports are long overdue. The chairpersons of the treaty bodies recommended at the last session that, as a last resort and to the extent appropriate, each treaty body follow this practice (A/47/628, para. 71).

34. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women faces a similar problem, as there are States parties who have long ratified the Convention, yet whose initial reports have not been submitted. Annex IV shows the situation of overdue reports for the Committee. As at 30 June 1994, there

were 16 States parties whose reports were 5 years or more overdue; 12 of these were more than 8 years overdue and 8 of these were more than 10 years overdue. However, should the Committee in the future take measures such as those of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to assess the progress in the advancement of women in all States parties to the Convention, whether or not they have complied with their reporting obligations, the constraints of the existing limitation in article 20 would become even more burdensome.

Preparation of concluding comments

35. Since its eleventh session, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women has presented concluding comments at the end of the consideration of States parties' reports. Originally they were delivered by the Chair and included in the session report of the Committee to the General Assembly. However, during the thirteenth session, the Committee decided to adopt the practice now becoming common to all human rights treaty bodies and prepare a more detailed concluding comment to be included in the final report of the Committee. The comment is designed to highlight the most important points raised during the constructive dialogue, identify particular areas of progress as well as issues and areas of concern that the Committee wishes the State party to report on in its next periodic report. Meeting time is required in order for the Committee to finalize its comments. At its thirteenth session, the time was not sufficient and concluding comments on the reports of three States were deferred to the next session of the Committee.

Role of non-governmental organizations

36. Non-governmental organizations have taken on increasing importance in recent years in the promotion of human rights, particularly as providers of alternative sources of information. In recognition of their evolving significance, their role at the national, regional and international levels was formally recognized in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action. 11/ Their participation in the reporting process under international instruments is particularly valuable, as it allows treaty bodies to obtain a balanced and comprehensive view of the human rights situation on the ground that might otherwise remain undisclosed or unavailable to the experts. Furthermore, the regional or international focus of many such groups often places them in a unique position to impart information about supranational and regional trends.

37. Both the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights have taken steps to increase the participation of non-governmental organizations in the reporting process and other work of their respective committees. To this end, they have set aside time for the organizations to make oral statements to their committees during the regular sessions. The pre-session working groups of the two committees also receive oral and written submissions from non-governmental organizations.

38. National and international non-governmental organizations have observer status at Committee sessions. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women receives reports from non-governmental organizations on an ad hoc and informal basis and has often commented on the value of the additional information received and had occasion to question the

representatives of States parties about matters relevant to the Convention which were disclosed in their reports. The Committee also encourages States parties to consult with national non-governmental organizations in the preparation of their reports wherever possible and commends their presence during the consideration of reports. In addition, the Committee invited non-governmental organizations to contribute information 12/ which was used in preparing the background report for the discussion on violence against women which gave rise to general recommendation No. 19.

39. At present, however, non-governmental organizations do not make formal representations to the Committee, nor do they participate in the dialogue between States parties and the Committee during the presentation of the reports. While the Secretariat provides the addresses of the Committee members to interested non-governmental organizations, no substantial servicing, such as translation and dissemination of reports, is currently available.

B. Preparation of suggestions and general recommendations

40. Under article 21, the Committee may make suggestions and general recommendations based on the examination of reports and information received from States parties. Since its inception, the Committee has formulated 21 general recommendations. As of this time, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination has adopted 17 general recommendations and a number of additional decisions; the Human Rights Committee has adopted 23 general comments; 13/ the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has adopted 4 general comments, some of which are quite lengthy and detailed; the Committee against Torture, while empowered to do so, has not yet adopted any general comments; and the Committee on the Rights of the Child has adopted 18 conclusions and recommendations. 14/

41. In the early years, the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women were relatively brief and were either directed at either technical and reporting procedures or designed to merely highlight particular issues and areas of concern. However, recent recommendations have become more lengthy and detailed as the Committee endeavours to make the experience it has gained through the consideration of a large number of country reports available for the benefit of all States parties. As a consequence, the recommendations have become an increasingly important source of jurisprudence on the Convention and information to all States parties. In this sense, the Committee's general recommendations are now similar to those adopted by the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

42. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women is now directing its attention to an elaboration of the specific provisions of the Convention. Recommendations now generally concern substantive issues. For example, general recommendation No. 19 contains a detailed analysis of the phenomenon and persistence of violence against women and suggestions for States parties as to methods of its eradication and remedies which should be available to women who are victims of violence. The most recent general recommendation, No. 21, concerning the equality of women in marriage and family relations,

contains an elaboration of articles 9, 15 and 16. Future recommendations are planned which will deal with the nature of the guarantees and the obligations of States parties under articles 2, 7 and 8.

43. In addition, the Committee has forwarded six suggestions to other bodies within the United Nations system on matters relating to the Convention.

44. Detailed recommendations are important to the dissemination of the Committee's work, the development of the Convention jurisprudence and the integration of gender issues into the work of the United Nations system. At the same time, they place increasing demands on the secretariat and require considerably more in the way of both preparation and meeting time for the Committee.

C. Activities undertaken by other treaty bodies but not undertaken by the Committee

45. A number of activities are undertaken by other treaty bodies, but not by the Committee, which have implications for the work of those bodies. For example, in addition to their other activities, both the Human Rights Committee and the Committee against Torture are required to consider communications and individual petitions submitted under the optional protocols to their respective instruments.

46. Taking note of the recommendation of the World Conference on Human Rights that new procedures be adopted to strengthen the implementation of the commitment to women's equality and that the possibility of an optional protocol in particular be examined, 15/ the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, through its suggestion No. 5, 16/ expressed its desire to have an expert group meeting convened to discuss the issue. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1994/7 of 21 July 1994 decided that the Commission examine at its thirty-ninth session, in cooperation with the Committee and taking into consideration the results of any expert meeting on the question that might be convened prior to that session, the feasibility of an optional protocol. It is not, however, anticipated that an expert meeting on the subject will be convened, since resources for it are not available in the regular budget and none have been forthcoming from extrabudgetary sources.

47. In the event that a protocol were to be adopted, it would increase the amount of time required for Committee sessions and place additional demands on secretariat time and resources.

48. Several of the treaty bodies engage in general discussions on themes or issues of relevance to their concerns or the implementation of their respective conventions, some of which are also of concern to the Committee. For example, during its last session, on 16 May 1994, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights held a meeting on the effect of structural adjustment programmes and safety nets on human rights. This same issue was also identified during the thirteenth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women as an issue of great impact and importance in the enjoyment of women's human rights. Moreover, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

in its last session identified the situation of women as one of the most pressing issues on its own agenda.

D. Additional activities of the treaty bodies

49. Under article 17 of the Convention, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women has a broad mandate to consider the progress made in the implementation of the Convention and through it, advances in the interests and status of women in the States parties generally. The other treaty bodies are similarly charged with the responsibility to oversee a particular area or issue of concern within the field of human rights. Thus, in comparing the resources of the Committee with the other treaty bodies and their respective abilities to carry out their mandates, it is useful to review the activities undertaken by the other treaty bodies in the pursuit of their particular objectives.

Discussion of special issues and topics

50. Both the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights devote one day during each session to a general discussion of a special issue relating to the mandate of their respective committees. Among the purposes of such general discussions identified by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights are the development of a deeper appreciation of the standards contained in the treaty, consultation with experts, involvement of the general public and establishing the foundations for the drafting of general comments. That Committee has recognized the importance of contributions from outside in successfully realizing these objectives.

51. In preparation for its general discussions, the Committee on the Rights of the Child submits its agenda and identified areas of concern to specialized agencies and solicits their input. It also convenes working groups on such topics and meets with other agencies and bodies within the United Nations. For example, it has a standing working group on economic and social indicators whose members participated in a seminar on social and economic indicators held in January 1993 and organized by the Centre for Human Rights.

52. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in recent sessions has also recognized the importance of general discussions on emerging trends in the situation of women. For example, during the eleventh session the increase of female-headed households was identified as one such matter. During the twelfth session, there were repeated calls to have general discussions on new trends. However, in the light of the time constraints that the Committee currently faces, regular and systematic consideration of issues of importance to the implementation of the Convention has not yet been possible.

Regional meetings

53. In addition to its regular meetings, the Committee on the Rights of the Child conducts informal regional meetings which are funded by UNICEF. The purpose of these meetings is to allow on-site visits and inspections of

conditions in States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and to permit briefings to develop an understanding of the application of the Convention in particular regional situations. Activities such as these strengthen the capacity of the Committee to monitor the implementation of the Convention and to advance the interests of children generally.

54. Where the situation in a State party warrants and needed information is unavailable by other means, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights may request that the State party accept a mission consisting of one or two of the Committee's experts.

55. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women currently has no provision or resources for such activities. The Committee of Chairpersons has emphasized the value of holding meetings outside Geneva, New York and Vienna (see A/47/628, para. 86), but notes that financial and other requirements tend to make their cost prohibitive.

Input into world conferences

56. On its own initiative, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women made a substantive contribution to the Third World Conference on Women held at Nairobi in 1985. In the light of the decision taken at the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights to increase coordination among human rights bodies and to mainstream women's human rights, it will be important for the Committee to contribute to any and all world conferences that have a bearing on the status and rights of women.

57. At its twelfth session, the Committee formulated a detailed suggestion to the World Conference on Human Rights. 17/ During its thirteenth session, it formulated a suggestion to the International Conference on Population and Development which will be held at Cairo in September, 1994. 18/ Extensive consideration was also given to the Committee's input into the upcoming Fourth World Conference on Women to be held at Beijing in September 1995, including the structure and content of the report on the history, implementation and future of the Convention. The Committee also made a recommendation to the World Summit for Social Development, to be held at Copenhagen in March 1995, including the need for gender to be reflected throughout the conference document and for attention to the impact of economic adjustment policies on women and children. The Committee expressed the view that it was highly desirable that experts from both developed and developing countries participated in the preparatory meetings to help Member States understand that the Convention was an important normative instrument that may offer guidelines to social development initiatives and that its implementation was indispensable to social development. 19/

IV. IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 47/94

A. Secretariat servicing

58. In its resolution 47/94, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to provide Secretariat staff and technical resources for the effective performance by the Committee of its functions and ensure adequate support to the Committee.

59. Since 1981, the Committee has been substantively and technically serviced by the Division for the Advancement of Women, now part of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development. Servicing of the Committee by the Division currently includes the following tasks. The secretariat receives and processes the reports of States parties. Processing and pre-analysis of a report involves: a consideration of the structure and adequacy of the report, including the degree of compliance with the reporting guidelines established by the Committee; consideration of reports of States parties submitted to other treaty bodies and the extraction of information relevant to the Convention; an analysis of the fulfilment or deficiencies of the Government with respect to specific articles of the Convention; and the provision of statistical background material to the report. In addition, the Secretariat corresponds with States parties regarding the reports and maintains contact with Committee members throughout the year. Furthermore, the Secretariat is required to engage in detailed analysis and consideration of particular provisions of the Convention. Such analyses may provide needed background material for the preparation of general recommendations or be used to assist the Committee in the development of the jurisprudence of the Convention and the elaboration of specific articles.

60. The view has been expressed by the Committee and supported by the General Assembly, that technical and substantive support for the Committee should be strengthened within existing resources. At the time the General Assembly adopted the Convention in 1979, no statement of programme budget implications was issued, nor has one been issued subsequently with regard to secretariat servicing. The servicing of the Committee has been absorbed within the regular work programme of the Division. The regular staff resources of the Division have decreased since 1985.

B. Publicity

61. In response to the request of the General Assembly for continued dissemination of information relating to the Committee, the Convention and the concept of legal literacy, the Division dedicated an issue of its publication Women 2000 (No. 3, 1992) to women's equal rights, wherein it deals with the Convention, the Committee, the role of non-governmental organizations, the concept of temporary special measures, legal literacy and the communications procedure. The Centre for Human Rights is in the process of publishing a fact sheet on the Convention.

62. Resources have been set aside in the 1994 budget to issue volume 3 of the sales publication on the work of the Committee. It is foreseen that future programme budgets will allow continuation of this publication.

C. Technical and advisory services

63. The General Assembly welcomed also the initiatives taken to provide regional training courses for government officials of States parties as well as for States considering acceding to the Convention and urged the Secretariat to support such initiatives. Consequently, until this year, the Division provided technical assistance to States parties in the preparation of reports where they were either overdue or inadequate. It also organized training seminars for States parties and non-ratifying States that were designed to familiarize government officials and non-governmental organizations with the Convention and the reporting process. The resources for these activities were provided from the regular programme of technical cooperation of the organization. However, with the reorganization of the resources of the regular programme, and the transfer of the Division to the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, these resources are no longer available. Efforts are being undertaken to work with the Centre for Human Rights in its programme of advisory services.

D. Interaction between the Committee and the Commission

64. Consistent with the recommendation of the General Assembly that meetings of the Committee be scheduled to allow for the timely transmission of the results of its work to the Commission on the Status of Women in the same year, the results of the Committee's work on its twelfth and thirteenth sessions were presented to the Commission by way of conference room papers. 20/ The Committee's fourteenth session is also scheduled in such a way that a similar procedure can be followed.

Notes

1/ Report of the World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, 14-25 June 1993 (A/CONF.157/24 (Part I)), chap. III.

2/ Economic and Social Council decision 1992/259.

3/ Economic and Social Council decision 1993/296.

4/ CRC/C/20, p. 4, recommendation No. 1.

5/ See CRC/C/24, p. 4, recommendation No. 1.

6/ CEDAW/C/1994/6.

7/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/48/38), para. 1.

8/ Ibid., Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/49/38), para. 796.

9/ Excluded from these calculations are updated reports and subsequent periodic reports which were received in the interim and considered at the same session.

10/ This very high number is a result of a number of factors: the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was the first convention to enter into force and its committee began receiving reports eight years before any other; that Convention has a much shorter reporting periodicity than others, two years as opposed to four or five. In practice, States parties report only every four or five years or more, and the Committee expects a comprehensive report only every four years with an update every two years.

11/ Report of the World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, 14-25 June 1993 (A/CONF.157/24 (Part I)), chap. III, para. 38.

12/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/46/38), para. 389.

13/ The general comments formulated by the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights are approximately equivalent in purpose and scope to the general recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

14/ This number reflects the practice of that Committee to formulate all administrative and procedural matters as formal recommendations. To date, there has been no substantive consideration of the articles of that Convention.

15/ Report of the World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, 14-25 June 1993 (A/CONF.157/24 (Part II)), chap. III, sect. II, para. 40.

16/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/49/38), p. 10.

17/ Ibid., Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/48/38), p. 6, suggestion No. 4.

18/ Ibid., Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/49/38), p. 10, suggestion No. 6.

19/ Ibid., para. 832.

20/ E/CN.6/1993/CRP.2 on the Committee's twelfth session and E/CN.6/1994/CRP.1 on the Committee's thirteenth session.

Table 1. Consideration of reports by the human rights treaty bodies

As at 1 June 1994	Human Rights Committee	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	Committee against Torture	Committee on the Rights of the Child	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
Treaty ratifications	127	129	139	82	161	133
Number of members	18	18	18	10	10	23
Current mandated regular meeting time	3 three-week sessions per year	1 three-week session per year a/	2 two-week sessions per year	2 two week sessions per year	2 three-week sessions per year b/	1 two-week session per year c/
Number of reports considered per session	5-7	5-6	12-13	6	6	15-16
Number of reports considered per year	15-20	12	25	12	12	15-16
Average number of meetings per country report	3 (2 for initial reports)	3	2	2	3	1½ meetings for initial reports; 1 meeting for subsequent reports
Number of overdue reports	95	129	392 d/	46	80	117
Reporting periods	First report within one year after entry into force; subsequent reports every five years	First report within one year after entry into force; subsequent reports every five years	First report within two years after entry into force; subsequent reports every two years (Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/4)	First report within one year after entry into force; subsequent reports every four years	First report within two years after entry into force; subsequent reports every five years	First report within one year after entry into force; subsequent reports every four years
Secretariat servicing	Centre for Human Rights	Centre for Human Rights	Centre for Human Rights	Centre for Human Rights	Centre for Human Rights	Division for the Advancement of Women

(Footnotes on following page)

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(Footnotes to table 1)

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a/ In 1993 and 1994, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights met for 2 three-week sessions as a result of the authorization of an extraordinary session in 1993 and 1994.

b/ In 1994, the Committee on the Rights of the Child met for 3 three-week sessions as a result of the authorization of a special session.

c/ The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women currently meets for 1 three-week session per year as a result of the authorization of the General Assembly.

d/ This number reflects the more frequent reporting requirements of the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the fact that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination has been considering reports for eight years longer than any other treaty body.

Table 2. Statistics on reporting to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

A. Reports received by the Committee

(as at 1 June 1994)

Year	Initial	1+2 combined	1+2+3 combined	Second	2+3 combined	Third	Excepticnal reports
1982	7						
1983	12						
1984	5						
1985	4						
1986	14			2			
1987	11			8			
1988	5			7			
1989	2			9			
1990	5			5		3	
1991	3	3	1	2	1	7	
1992	1	3		5	2	4	
1993	1	2	1	2	2	5	
1994	2	1		2	1		2

B. Number of reports considered

(as at 1 June 1994)

Year	Session	Initial	1+2 combined	1+2+3 combined	Second	2+3 combined	Third	Exceptional reports
1982	First	0						
1983	Second	7						
1984	Third	6						
1985	Fourth	5						
1986	Fifth	8						
1987	Sixth	8						
1988	Seventh	11			2			
1989	Eighth	6			3			
1990	Ninth	7					5	
1991	Tenth	2					8	
1992	Eleventh	1	1	1	6			
1993	Twelfth	1	1	2	4	1	2	
1994	Thirteenth	4	2		3	4		2
1995	Fourteenth	3	2	1	3		3	

C. Number of reports awaiting discussion

(as at 1 June 1994)

Initial	1+2 combined	1+2+3 combined	Second	2+3 combined	Third
6	6	2	6	3	10

D. Total number of reports received and awaiting consideration: 33

ANNEX I

List of States that have signed, ratified or acceded to the Convention as at 1 August 1994

State	Date of signature	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification, accession or succession
Afghanistan	14 August 1980	
Albania		11 May 1994 a/
Angola		17 September 1986 a/
Antigua and Barbuda		1 August 1989 a/
Argentina	17 July 1980	15 July 1985 b/
Armenia		13 September 1993 a/
Australia	17 July 1980	28 July 1983 b/
Austria	17 July 1980	31 March 1982 b/
Bahamas		6 October 1993 a/ b/
Bangladesh		6 November 1984 a/ b/
Barbados	24 July 1980	16 October 1980
Belarus	17 July 1980	4 February 1981 c/
Belgium	17 July 1980	10 July 1985 b/
Belize	7 March 1990	16 May 1990
Benin	11 November 1981	12 March 1992
Bhutan	17 July 1980	31 August 1981
Bolivia	30 May 1980	8 June 1990
Bosnia and Herzegovina		1 September 1993 d/
Brazil	31 March 1981 b/	1 February 1984 b/
Bulgaria	17 July 1980	8 February 1982 c/
Burkina Faso		14 October 1987 a/
Burundi	17 July 1980	9 January 1992
Cambodia	17 October 1980	15 October 1992 a/
Cameroon	6 June 1983	
Canada	17 July 1980	10 December 1981 c/
Cape Verde		5 December 1980 a/
Central African Republic		21 June 1991 a/
Chile	17 July 1980 b/	7 December 1989
China	17 July 1980 b/	4 November 1980 b/
Colombia	17 July 1980	19 January 1982
Congo	29 July 1980	26 July 1982
Costa Rica	17 July 1980	4 April 1986
Côte d'Ivoire	17 July 1980	
Croatia		9 September 1992 d/
Cuba	6 March 1980	17 July 1980 b/
Cyprus		23 July 1985 a/ b/
Czech Republic e/		22 February 1993 c/ d/
Denmark	17 July 1980	21 April 1983
Dominica	15 September 1980	15 September 1980

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State	Date of signature	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification, accession or succession
Dominican Republic	17 July 1980	2 September 1982
Ecuador	17 July 1980	9 November 1981
Egypt	16 July 1980 b/	18 September 1981 b/
El Salvador	14 November 1980 b/	19 August 1981 b/
Equatorial Guinea		23 October 1984 a/
Estonia		21 October 1991 a/
Ethiopia	8 July 1980	10 December 1981 b/
Finland	17 July 1980	4 September 1986
France	17 July 1980 b/	14 December 1983 b/ c/
Gabon	17 July 1980	21 January 1983
Gambia	29 July 1980	16 April 1993
Germany f/	17 July 1980	10 July 1985 b/
Ghana	17 July 1980	2 January 1986
Greece	2 March 1982	7 June 1983
Grenada	17 July 1980	30 August 1990
Guatemala	8 June 1981	12 August 1982
Guinea	17 July 1980	9 August 1982
Guinea-Bissau	17 July 1980	23 August 1985
Guyana	17 July 1980	17 July 1980
Haiti	17 July 1980	20 July 1981
Honduras	11 June 1980	3 March 1983
Hungary	6 June 1980	22 December 1980 c/
Iceland	24 July 1980	18 June 1985
India	30 July 1980 b/	9 July 1993 b/
Indonesia	29 July 1980	13 September 1984 b/
Iraq		13 August 1986 a/ b/
Ireland		23 December 1985 a/ b/ c/
Israel	17 July 1980	3 October 1991 b/
Italy	17 July 1980 b/	10 June 1985
Jamaica	17 July 1980	19 October 1984 b/
Japan	17 July 1980	25 June 1985
Jordan	3 December 1980 b/	1 July 1992 b/
Kenya		9 March 1984 a/
Lao People's Democratic Republic	17 July 1980	14 August 1981
Latvia		14 April 1992 a/
Lesotho	17 July 1980	
Liberia		17 July 1984 a/
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya		16 May 1989 a/ b/
Lithuania		18 January 1994 a/
Luxembourg	17 July 1980	2 February 1989 b/
Macedonia		18 January 1994 d/
Madagascar	17 July 1980	17 March 1989
Malawi		12 March 1987 a/ c/
Maldives		1 July 1993 a/ b/

State	Date of signature	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification, accession or succession
Mali	5 February 1985	10 September 1985
Malta		8 March 1991 a/ b/
Mauritius		9 July 1984 a/ b/
Mexico	17 July 1980 b/	23 March 1981
Mongolia	17 July 1980	20 July 1981 c/
Morocco		21 June 1993 a/ b/
Namibia		23 November 1992 a/
Nepal	5 February 1991	22 April 1991
Netherlands	17 July 1980	23 July 1991 b/
New Zealand	17 July 1980	10 January 1985 b/ c/
Nicaragua	17 July 1980	27 October 1981
Nigeria	23 April 1984	13 June 1985
Norway	17 July 1980	21 May 1981
Panama	26 June 1980	29 October 1981
Paraguay		6 April 1987 a/
Peru	23 July 1981	13 September 1982
Philippines	15 July 1980	5 August 1981
Poland	29 May 1980	30 July 1980 b/
Portugal	24 April 1980	30 July 1980
Republic of Korea	25 May 1983 b/	27 December 1984 b/ c/
Republic of Moldova		1 July 1994 a/
Romania	4 September 1980 b/	7 January 1982 b/
Russian Federation	17 July 1980	23 January 1981 c/
Rwanda	1 May 1980	2 March 1981
Saint Kitts and Nevis		25 April 1985 a/
Saint Lucia		8 October 1982 a/
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines		4 August 1981 a/
Samoa		25 September 1992 a/
Senegal	29 July 1980	5 February 1985
Seychelles		5 May 1992 a/
Sierra Leone	21 September 1988	11 November 1988
Slovakia e/		25 May 1993 d/
Slovenia		6 July 1992 d/
South Africa	29 January 1993	
Spain	17 July 1980	5 January 1984 b/
Sri Lanka	17 July 1980	5 October 1981
Suriname		1 March 1993 a/
Sweden	7 March 1980	2 July 1980
Switzerland	23 January 1987	
Tajikistan		26 October 1993 a/
Thailand		9 August 1985 a/ b/ c/
Togo		26 September 1983 a/
Trinidad and Tobago	27 June 1985 b/	12 January 1990 b/
Tunisia	24 July 1980	20 September 1985 b/

State	Date of signature	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification, accession or succession
Turkey		20 December 1985 a/ b/
Uganda	30 July 1980	22 July 1985
Ukraine	17 July 1980	12 March 1981 c/
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	22 July 1981 b/	7 April 1986 b/
United Republic of Tanzania	17 July 1980	20 August 1985
United States of America	17 July 1980	
Uruguay	30 March 1981	9 October 1981
Venezuela	17 July 1980	2 May 1983 b/
Viet Nam	29 July 1980	17 February 1982 b/
Yemen g/		30 May 1984 a/ b/
Yugoslavia	17 July 1980	26 February 1982
Zaire	17 July 1980	17 October 1986
Zambia	17 July 1980	21 June 1985
Zimbabwe		13 May 1991 a/

a/ Accession.

b/ Declarations or reservations.

c/ Reservation subsequently withdrawn.

d/ Succession.

e/ Before becoming separate States on 1 January 1993 the Czech Republic and Slovakia formed part of Czechoslovakia, which had ratified the Convention on 16 January 1982.

f/ With effect from 3 October 1990, the German Democratic Republic (which ratified the Convention on 9 July 1980) and the Federal Republic of Germany (which ratified the Convention on 10 July 1985) united to form one sovereign State, which acts in the United Nations under the designation of "Germany".

g/ On 22 May 1990, Democratic Yemen and Yemen merged to form a single State, which acts in the United Nations under the designation of "Yemen".

ANNEX II

Reservations made upon ratification from 1 August 1993 to 1 August 1994

[Original: English]

[6 October 1993]

Reservations made by the Commonwealth of the Bahamas upon accession

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas does not consider itself bound by the provisions of article 2 (a), ... article 9, paragraph 2, ... article 16 (h), ... [and] article 29, paragraph 1, of the Convention.

The following text of declarations and reservation was not contained in the report of the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session (A/48/354):

[Original: English]

[9 July 1993]

Declarations and reservation made by the Government of the Republic of India upon signature and confirmed upon ratification

A. DECLARATIONS

With regard to articles 5 (a) and 16 (1) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Government of the Republic of India declares that it shall abide by and ensure these provisions in conformity with its policy of non-interference in the personal affairs of any community without its initiative and consent.

With regard to article 16 (2) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Government of the Republic of India declares that though in principle it fully supports the principle of compulsory registration of marriages, it is not practical in a vast country like India with its variety of customs, religions and level of literacy.

B. RESERVATION

With regard to article 29 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Government of the Republic of India declares that it does not consider itself bound by paragraph 1 of this article.

ANNEX III

Objections made from 1 August 1993 to 1 August 1994

[Original: English]

[5 May 1994]

Objection by the Government of Finland to reservations made by the Government of the Republic of Maldives upon accession

The Government of Finland has examined the contents of the reservations made by the Government of Maldives upon accession to the said Convention, by which Maldives expresses that: "The Government of the Republic of Maldives will comply with the provisions of the Convention, except those which the Government may consider contradictory to the principles of the Islamic Shariah upon which the laws and traditions of the Maldives is founded. Furthermore, the Republic of Maldives does not see itself bound by any provisions of the Convention which obliges to change its constitution and laws in any manner."

In the view of the Government of Finland, the unlimited and undefined character of the said reservations create serious doubts about the commitment of the reserving State to fulfil its obligations under the Convention. In their extensive formulation, they are clearly contrary to the object and purpose of the Convention. Therefore, the Government of Finland objects to such reservations.

The Government of Finland also recalls that the said reservations are subject to the general principle of treaty interpretation according to which a party may not invoke the provisions of its domestic law as a justification for failure to perform its treaty obligations.

The Government of Finland does not, however, consider that this objection constitutes an obstacle to the entry into force of the Convention between Finland and Maldives.

[Original: English]

[14 July 1994]

Objection by the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the reservations and declarations made by the Governments of India, Morocco and Maldives upon ratification or accession

The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands considers that the declarations made by India regarding article 5 (a) and article 16, paragraph 1, of the Convention are reservations incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention (article 28, para. 2).

The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands considers that the declaration made by India regarding article 16, paragraph 2, of the Convention

is a reservation incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention (article 28, para. 2).

The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands considers that the declaration made by Morocco expressing the readiness of Morocco to apply the provisions of article 2 provided that they do not conflict with the provisions of the Islamic Shariah, is a reservation incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention (article 28, para. 2).

The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands considers that the declaration made by Morocco regarding article 15, paragraph 4, of the Convention is a reservation incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention (article 28, para. 2).

The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands considers that the reservations made by Morocco regarding article 9, paragraph 2, and article 16 of the Convention are reservations incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention (article 28, para. 2).

The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands has examined the reservations made by Maldives, by which "The Government of the Republic of Maldives will comply with the provisions of the Convention, except those which the Government may consider contradictory to the principles of the Islamic Shariah upon which the laws and traditions of Maldives is founded", and the Republic of Maldives declares that it "does not see itself bound by any provisions of the Convention which obliges to change its constitution and laws in any manner". The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands considers the said reservations incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention.

The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands objects to the above-mentioned declarations and reservations.

These objections shall not preclude the entry into force of the Convention as between India, Morocco, Maldives and the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

ANNEX IV

Reports overdue as at 1 June 1994

Country	Initial report	Second periodic report	Third periodic report
Angola	X	X	
Antigua and Barbados	X		
Australia			X
Austria			X
Belize	X		
Benin	X		
Bhutan	X	X	X
Brazil	X	X	X
Bulgaria		X	X
Burkina Faso		X	
Burundi	X		
Cambodia	X		
Cape Verde	X	X	X
Central African Republic	X		
China			X
Congo	X	X	X
Costa Rica	X	X	
Croatia	X		
Cyprus		X	
Czech Republic	X		
Dominica	X	X	X
Egypt			X
El Salvador			X
Equatorial Guinea			X
Estonia	X		
France			X
Gabon		X	X
Gambia	X		
Germany		X	
Greece		X	X
Grenada	X		
Guatemala			X
Guinea	X	X	X
Guinea-Bissau	X	X	
Guyana		X	X
Haiti	X	X	X
Indonesia		X	X
Iraq		X	
Ireland		X	
Jamaica		X	X
Jordan	X		

Country	Initial report	Second periodic report	Third periodic report
Kenya			X
Lao People's Democratic Republic	X	X	X
Latvia	X		
Liberia	X	X	X
Luxembourg	X	X	
Madagascar		X	
Malawi		X	
Mali		X	
Malta	X		
Mauritius			X
Mongolia			X
Namibia	X		
Nepal	X		
New Zealand			X
Nigeria		X	
Panama		X	X
Peru			X
Republic of Korea			X
Saint Kitts and Nevis	X	X	X
Saint Lucia	X	X	X
Samoa	X		
Senegal			X
Seychelles	X		
Sierra Leone	X	X	
Spain			X
Sri Lanka			X
Suriname	X		
Thailand		X	
Togo	X	X	X
Trinidad and Tobago	X		
Tunisia		X	
United Republic of Tanzania		X	
Uruguay		X	X
Venezuela			X
Viet Nam		X	X
Yugoslavia			X
Zaire		X	
Zimbabwe	X		